

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 /014 W  
----- 085448

R 210712Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8839  
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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STATE FOR AF/EX AND SY/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AFSP, ASEC  
SUBJECT: THEFT AT AMCON LUBUMBASHI

REF: STATE 170380

1. BETWEEN APPROX 0100 AND 0600 HOURS OF JULY 4, THE CONSULATE AT LUBUMBASHI WAS FORCIBLY ENTERED AND THE 1150 LB. HERRING-HALL-MARVIN SAFE, SER NO. 1658, WAS STOLEN FROM B&F OFFICE. SAFE CONTAINED ZAIRES 6665 OF U.S. GOVERNMENT CASH PLUS 52 GBL'S, 25 UNUSED FS-459 AND VARIOUS B&F RECORDS. NO ATTEMPT MADE TO FORCE THE VAULT CONTAINING THREE CABINETS CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND OTHER SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT, NOR WERE OTHER SALEABLE ITEMS TAKEN. THE NIGHT SENTINEL WITNESSED ROBBERY BUT TOO FRIGHTENED BY THE EIGHT TO TWELVE INTRUDERS TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION. THE INTRUDERS CUT THROUGH THE CHAIN LINK FENCE SURROUNDING THE GROUNDS, FORCED THE LOCK TO THE DOOR OF THE VICE CONSUL'S OFFICE IN FULL VIEW OF EXCELLENT LIGHTING ON THE GROUNDS, ENTERED THE B&F OFFICE AND TOOK KEY TO THAT OFFICE REAR DOOR TO OPEN IT. THEY "HOT WIRED" THE CONSUL'S TOYOTA LAND CRUISER AND BACKED IT UP TO THE B&F OFFICE OPEN DOOR. THEY SLID THE CABINET INTO THE BACK OF THE TOYOTA AND DROVE IT OUT THE MAIN GATE, THE LOCK OF WHICH THEY HAD FORCED. THE TOYOTA WAS FOUND ABANDONED AND UNDAMAGED AT 0830 IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. THE THEFT APPEARED

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WELL PLANNED AND CHARACTERIZED BY THE NEATNESS OF THE

PERPETRATORS. THEY APPEARED TO HAVE AN EXCELLENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSULATE, AS EVIDENCED BY ITS PRECISION. THE SENTINEL NOTIFIED THE B&F OFFICER OF THE THEFT.

2. CONSULATE NOTIFIED COMMISSIONNAIRE DE REGION, WHOSE RESIDENCE LOCATED NEXT TO CONSULATE, AND POLICE AND GECAMINES, A LOCAL MINING COMPANY WITH STORED EXPLOSIVES AND TOOLS. RSO AND B&F OFFICER FROM KINSHASA INVESTIGATED 7/15 TO 7/18. DELAY CAUSED BY RSO INVESTIGATION IN LIBREVILLE. VARIOUS PROCEDURAL CHANGES AND PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES RECOMMENDED, MOST NOTEWORTHY OF WHICH WERE ADDITIONAL NIGHT SENTINELS, DOGS, AND STRUCTURAL ADDITIONS TO CONSULATE BUILDING ITSELF. DETAILS WILL BE SUBJECT LATER REPORT BY RSO.

3. AT APPROX 0100 HOURS OF JULY 19, NIGHT SENTINEL HEARD NOISES AT FENCE AND, ON INVESTIGATING, SAW THREE MEN IN THE LOCAL GSO EMPLOYEE'S OFFICE RIFLING DESK. HE ALERTED THE B&F CASHIER, WHO RESPONDED WITH MEMBER OF MILITARY RESERVE. THE ALARM FRIGHTENED OFF INTRUDERS. NOTHING TAKEN NOR WAS THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF FORCED ENTRANCE. ASSUMPTION IS THIS BREAK IN CONNECTED WITH FIRST AND THAT THE INTRUDERS HAD A KEY FROM FIRST AND WERE TRYING TO FIND COMBINATION TO THE CABINET, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY HAVE FAILED TO OPEN IT YET. SCARCITY OF DETAILS CAUSED BY POOR RADIO TRANSMISSION BETWEEN LUBUMBASHI AND KINSHASA.  
CUTLER

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